



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

DOGM  
MINERALS PROGRAM  
FILE COPY

March 16, 1990

Mr. Frank Wicks, General Manager  
Barrick Mercur Gold Mine  
P.O. Box 838  
Tooele, Utah 84074

RE: Summary of Our March 7, 1990 Meeting  
Regarding Ground Water Discharge Permit  
for Dump 3.

Dear Mr. Wicks:

During our meeting of March 7, 1990 you requested that construction of Dump 3 be allowed to begin before issuance of a Ground Water Discharge Permit. Unfortunately, the Ground Water Quality Protection Regulations do not allow us the latitude to grant your request (UAC R448-6-6.1A). In addition, it is necessary to collect background ground water quality before the permit can be issued (UAC R448-6-6.10A).

The construction of Dump 3 has been scheduled to begin June 1, 1990. This would require the public comment period to begin before May 1, 1990, preferably around April 23, 1990.

We agreed that background ground water quality data could be collected either from springs or wells. Because there are no existing wells in the vicinity of Dump 3, Barrick may need to install new monitoring wells. In either case, springs or new monitoring wells will need to:

1. Be located in and draw ground water from the same aquifer that underlies the Dump 3 site, and
2. Be located hydrologically upgradient of the Dump 3 site, in order that the point may continue to be used for sampling during operation of the dump. A lateral gradient location may be acceptable for initial ground water quality sampling, but may need to be replaced later with an upgradient point.

We also agreed that the background quality would be determined initially on a small number of ground water samples. The permit would then require further sampling during dump construction and operation. After at least one year's worth of data has been collected the permit would require an evaluation of the ground water quality data collected and a re-evaluation of background values and protection levels. Significant changes in the background values or protection levels would require a modification of the permit thereafter.

Mr. Frank Wicks  
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Parameters of analysis for background quality should include all the constituents of the pregnant liquor. Analytical methods selected should have detection limits below both the Ground Water Quality Standards (UAC R448-6-2) and the anticipated ground water protection levels (UAC R448-6-4). As always, these analyses must be performed by a State certified laboratory.

We appreciate your cooperation and will endeavor to work with you to conclude this in a timely manner. If you have any questions or comments, please call Loren Morton at 538-6146.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Larry J Mize".

Larry Mize, Manager  
Ground Water Quality Protection Section  
Bureau of Water Pollution Control

cc: Matt Trujillo, Tooele Co. Health Dept.  
Glade Shelly, Utah Co. Health Dept.  
Terry Vandell, Dames & Moore  
Wayne Hedberg, DOGM

LBM:kc  
Q:DP\_Dump3.1.TR